IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3, 5, 10, 12, 16, 18, 23, and 25.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 6-8, 11, 13-14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26-27, and 29-32 as indicated below.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of allocating storage to a host in a computer network, said method comprising:

the host performing path discovery;

identifying storage coupled to said computer network;

mapping said storage to said host;

building a storage path database; ~~and~~

storing said database within the host;

detecting a failure of said host;

retrieving said stored database, in response to detecting said failure; and

utilizing said database to re-map said storage to said host.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said path discovery comprises:

querying a switch coupled to said host;

detecting an indication that said storage is coupled to said switch via a first port; and

performing a query via said first port.

3.   (Cancelled).

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 1, further comprising storing said database on said storage.

5.   (Cancelled).

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 1, further comprising:

performing a check on said database subsequent to said retrieving, wherein said check comprises determining whether said database is valid; and

conveying a notification indicating said database is invalid, in response to determining said database is not valid.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 1, further comprising:

performing a check on said database subsequent to said retrieving, wherein said check comprises attempting to access said storage; and

conveying a notification of a failure to access said storage, in response to detecting said storage is inaccessible.

8.   (Currently Amended) A computer network comprising:

a network interconnect, wherein said interconnect includes a switching mechanism;

a first storage device coupled to said interconnect; and

a first host coupled to said interconnect, wherein said first host is configured to:

perform path discovery~~;~~ :

identify said first storage coupled to said computer network~~;~~ :

map said first storage to said host~~;~~ :

build a storage path database~~, and~~ :

store said database within the host;

detect a failure of said host;

retrieve said stored database, in response to detecting said failure; and

utilize said database to re-map said storage to said host.

9.   (Original) The computer network of claim 8, wherein said path discovery comprises:

querying said switching mechanism;

detecting an indication that said first storage is coupled to said switching mechanism via a first port of said switching mechanism; and

performing a query via said first port.

10.   (Cancelled).

11.   (Currently Amended) The computer network of claim ~~10~~ 8, further comprising storing said database on said first storage device.

12.   (Cancelled).

13.   (Currently Amended) The computer network of claim ~~12~~ 8, wherein said host is further configured to:

> perform a check on said database subsequent to retrieving said database, wherein said check comprises determining whether said database valid; and

> convey a notification indicating said database is invalid, in response to said determining said database is not valid.

14.   (Currently Amended) A host comprising:

> a first port configured to be coupled to a computer network; and
> an allocation mechanism, wherein said mechanism is configured to:
> perform path discovery~~,~~ ;
> identify a first storage coupled to said computer network~~,~~;
> map said first storage to said host~~,~~ ;
> build a storage path database~~, and~~ ;
> store said database;
> detect a failure of said host;
> retrieve said stored database, in response to detecting said failure; and
> utilize said database to re-map said storage to said host.

15.   (Original) The host of claim 14, wherein said path discovery comprises:

querying a switch coupled to said first port;

detecting an indication that said first storage is coupled to said switch via a port of
        said switch; and

performing a query via said port of said switch.

16.   (Cancelled).

17.   (Currently Amended) The host of claim ~~16~~ 14, wherein said allocation
mechanism is further configured to store said database on said first storage.

18.   (Cancelled).

19.   (Currently Amended) The host of claim ~~18~~ 14, wherein said allocation
mechanism is further configured to:

perform a check on said database subsequent to retrieving said database, wherein
        said check comprises determining whether said database is valid; and

convey a notification indicating said database is invalid, in response to
        determining said database is not valid.

20.   (Original) The host of claim 14, wherein said allocation mechanism comprises a
processing unit executing program instructions.

21.   (Currently Amended) A carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein said program instructions are executable to:

perform path discovery;

identify storage coupled to a computer network;

map said storage to a host;

build a storage path database; and

store said database within the host;

detect a failure of said host;

retrieve said stored database from the host, in response to detecting said failure; and

utilize said database to re-map said storage to said host.

22.   (Original) The carrier medium of claim 21, wherein said program instructions are further executable to:

query a switch coupled to said host;

detect an indication that said storage is coupled to said switch via a first port; and

perform a query via said first port.

23.   (Cancelled).

24.   (Currently Amended) The carrier medium of claim ~~23~~ 21, wherein said program instructions are further executable to store said database on said storage.

25.   (Cancelled).

26.   (Currently Amended) The carrier medium of claim ~~25~~ 21, wherein said program instructions are further executable to:

perform a check on said database subsequent to retrieving said stored database,
        wherein said check comprises determining whether said database is valid;
        and

convey a notification indicating said database is invalid, in response to
        determining said database is not valid.

27.   (Currently Amended) The carrier medium of claim ~~25~~ 21, wherein said program instructions are further executable to:

perform a check on said database subsequent to retrieving said stored database,
        wherein said check comprises attempting to access said storage; and

conveying a notification of a failure to access said storage, in response to
        detecting said storage is inaccessible.

28.   (Original) The carrier medium of claim 21, wherein said program instructions are native to an operating system executing within a host.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying and allocating storage to a host in a computer network, said method comprising:

identifying storage coupled to said computer network;

identifying a path between said identified storage and said host;

mapping said identified storage to said host;

building a storage path database;

storing said database within the host; and

automatically initiating an attempt to re-map said storage to said host, wherein
said automatic attempt comprises detecting a failure of said host,
retrieving said stored database, and utilizing said database to re-map said
storage to said host.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer network comprising:

a network interconnect;

a first storage coupled to said interconnect; and

a first host coupled to said interconnect, wherein said first host is configured to:
identify said first storage;
identify a path between said first storage and said host;
map said first storage to said host;
build a storage path database;
store said database within the host; and

automatically initiate an attempt to re-map said storage to said host,

wherein said host is configured to detect a failure of said host,

retrieve said stored database in response to detecting said failure,

and utilize said database to re-map said first storage to said host.

31. (Currently Amended) A host comprising:

a first port configured to be coupled to a computer network; and

an allocation mechanism, wherein said mechanism is configured to:

identify storage coupled to said computer network;

identify a path between said storage and said host;

map said storage to said host;

build a storage path database;

store said database within the host; and

automatically initiate an attempt to re-map said storage to said host,

wherein said host is configured to detect a failure of said host,

retrieve said stored database in response to detecting said failure,

and utilize said database to re-map said first storage to said host.

32. (Currently Amended) A carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein said program instructions are executable to:

identify storage coupled to a computer network;

identify a path between said storage and a host;

map said storage to said host;

build a storage path database;

store said database <u>within the host</u>; and

automatically initiate an attempt to re-map said storage to said host, wherein in performing said attempt said instructions are executable to detect a failure of said host, retrieve said stored database in response to detecting said failure, and utilize said database to re-map said first storage to said host.